



Our Mission Statement:

“to share God’s love, word and grace with all people”

MARCH, 2022

“Hey, Doesn’t Lent Mean ‘Spring?’”

Yes! Spring means growth, taking a deep breath, and maybe planning some vacation time before the baking hot weather of summer starts melting the sidewalks again.

Of course, there is another way that Lent means spring. It’s the church season that takes a deep breath and considers how, in this very human world of ours, death in God’s hands turns to life.



God asks the question “is death, and our day by day human struggle (which has never seemed to be going worse than right now), inevitable?” The musical answer is to the left. Your answer may vary. Any way you play it, spring has elements of death... and life. Yes, spring can really hang you up the most.

It’s an open book test.

That’s because his Son Jesus is that open book. You can look anywhere in his life (see: the four gospels) and see him moving purposefully toward his own death, brought about by the terrible effects of our distance from God (see: sin). It’s painful, solitary, final. In the end, the Son of God is as dead as any of us will finally be. And the last question on the open book test is, “Why die, Jesus?” Here’s the answer: so he could convince us that God is still in control and he’s the God of life. God gives life as a Lenten gift, so that we don’t have to fear death and do the weird, unusual, and often destructive things we do to try to prove that mortality can’t touch us.

Let’s make it real.

So, the answer to the test of death is Jesus’ resurrection. I don’t like formulaic religious answers to my questions about life, do you? And this seems like one of them. So let’s make it real. Lent does that as it walks with Jesus on his inevitable path to his cross, his sufferings, his best friends’ efforts to get away from his suffering (and their own!), and his quiet, loving, joyous victory on Easter day.

Midweek Lenten Worship, You’re Invited!

Walk with Jesus this spring. They include Holden Evening Prayer, a meal, and some filmed episodes of what life with Jesus was probably like (The Chosen, season 2) for our meditation and discussion. Here’s the schedule from Wednesday, March 9 through Wednesday, April 6:

Light Dinner 6:00 PM
Holden Evening Prayer Worship 6:30 PM
Movie and discussion “The Chosen,” season 2, 7:00 - 8:00 PM

What is Lent? Spring for all things, and the gift of new life. I could use that gift. You could, too!

Pastor Dow





Brief Notes from the Council Meeting, Feb. 14, 2022

- ~ Minutes from January Council Meeting Jan. 10, 2022, approved
- ~Minutes from Council Retreat on Feb. 5, 2022, approved.
- Reports from Family Ministry, Chapel School, Worship and Music handed out.

Old Business:

Financial Report presented from the Treasurer, Kim Bogert.

- Amount left owing on Sound System: \$3,923.91. (the church borrowed from itself to purchase the sound system, and we are steadily paying ourselves back through special offerings).
- On-line Giving Tutorials are being reviewed by the office staff and program should be up and running in about 2 weeks. (see article below)

New Business:

- Policy on Covid Exposure presented and discussed
- Looking forward to Lent---Ministry Fair—what ministries are available and what ministries are you interested in.
- Report from Bonnie Tremayne on the plans and 9 projects the L4 Ladies are discussing.
- Our 100 Year Anniversary : Sara Waters will look into this; when is the exact date, etc

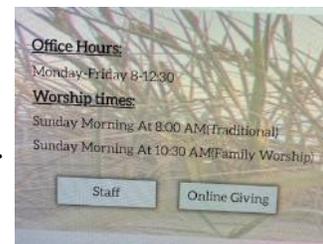
The next Council meeting will be on April 11 2022

Online Giving Good To Go at Memorial – Now!



So, you've been wanting to give online for either regular offering or to help with a special project. Thanks to our office staff and the accounting software they use, it's now a reality.

Find the link on our website,
memoriallutheranchurch.net.
Hit the button in the lower left hand corner.



Instructions for giving will appear when you click this link. There will be a menu asking for method of payment, e-mail address, and options for where you want your donation to go (member, non member, etc)

How about texting a financial gift? The text number is 73256. Then, the code is MLCGIVING (not case sensitive). Follow the prompts, entering the information indicated above.

We will track each gift and note it on individual giving records. The office staff is always happy to answer your questions about this new feature. God bless you and your giving spirit!

Family Ministry News

Sunday Chapel School continues each week, we are now meeting regularly in the church hall. We usually have 3-8 kids join us with their families. Many are now coming into worship at 10:30am, so the “Pray-Ground” is back in use. Each week during the 10:30am service, children have a place to quietly play while still being included in our intergenerational worship experience. There are quiet toys and crafts for children of all ages, and a simple snack with water is also provided. Coloring/Activity sheets are provided for the lectionary Bible story. Kids are encouraged to participate in worship during the Children’s Sermons, playing instruments, and signing lyrics. Special thanks to Barbara Mattingly and Pastor Dow, who are creatively including worship opportunities for our families.

Chapel School families will be joining us for worship at 10:30am on Sunday, March 6, 2022! Please make every effort to welcome them so they know they have a church home here at Memorial. Following worship on that day, Chapel School will be hosting a brunch for everyone and fun outdoor activities for children. Please plan to join us!

Our Boundless group received some very sad news – the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering has been cancelled. Not postponed, cancelled until the next regularly scheduled event in 2024. Our youth handled the situation with so much grace, and I’m so proud of each of them.

They have instead chosen to attend Summer camp at Luther Springs, and they intentionally chose a camp that all of their Youth Group friends could attend as well.

Our amazing Youth Group reached out into our community with love celebrating the Souper Bowl of Caring last week. Our generous congregation helped them raise \$580 for the St. Francis House! Not only did they collect money and cans of food, they organized a Chili Cook-Off which was so much fun!! We had 5 different teams (pots of chili) and people could vote for their favorite in person or online. The winner of the Golden Ladle trophy goes to AMIAH DINGFELDER. Her team chili was called Amiah's "Give Us This Day our Daily Chili." The very close 2nd place winner was Declan & Colin’s “Gaines Day Chili.” Huge thanks to all our amazing families for supporting us and making chili with their kids.

Since we are not attending the Youth Gathering, our Boundless group will no longer be meeting in preparation. I am working on a Parenting Bible Study to replace that time and will have more details coming soon.

This year we will once again enjoy a Palm Sunday Picnic & Egg Hunt and hope to attract lots of families from Chapel School and our community. Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 10, 2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our church and community.

Linda Chambers, Director of Family Ministry



Chapel School News

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you—
John 15:12*

Omicron returned to Chapel School along with our Chapel School kids in January. We had several cases of Covid exposure but worked through the quarantines and we are happy to say that February was a much better month. The Chapel School Board met and updated our Covid guidelines and we are excited to announce that beginning March 7, we will be returning to our regular Chapel Time at 8:30am in the sanctuary and inviting our families to join us once again in person!! Since March 2020, we have been doing Chapel Time in our classroom cohorts and families were only able to join us on Zoom.

God has perfect timing – our return to Chapel Time together coincides with LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK 2022!! The theme for Lutheran Schools Week is “In Christ’s Love.” We will kick off Lutheran Schools Week on Sunday, March 6 and we are inviting our Chapel School families to our 10:30am worship service which celebrates our Chapel School ministry. The Chapel School kids will be singing a special Chapel Time song - “Awesome God” and receive a blessing from Pastor Dow. Following worship we will have **Sunday Brunch AND a super fun Kinder Fit** activity zone out back and a **BOUNCE HOUSE!**

All week long, EVERYONE (students and staff) will dress up in fun and exciting ways:

Monday, March 7: **Christ’s GIVING love!** - Sunday Best Day

Tuesday, March 8: **Christ’s HEALING love!** - Pajama Day

Wednesday, March 9: **Christ’s TEACHING love!** - Sports Theme Day

Thursday, March 10: **Our COMMUNITY of love!** - School Spirit Day



This year, as we reach out into our community with love, we will be collecting dog and cat food each Sunday in March for a local animal shelter. If you have a connection to one, please let us know!

Please help us make this the most successful and FUN Lutheran Schools Week ever at Chapel School. Join us for worship and the brunch on Sunday, March 6!! *Many of our Chapel School families are unchurched, let’s show them how much they are loved and welcomed here at Memorial Lutheran.*

There are over 1,350 ELCA Lutheran schools that serve 150,00 children and employ more than 18,000 people. Here at Memorial Lutheran Chapel School, we currently have 48 children enrolled in our program and employ 9. We are proud to be part of the community since 1988. Chapel School is play based, child focused, grounded in research, and centered in love. We are currently enrolling for our 2022-23 school year, please tell your friends and neighbors!

The love and support of our amazing congregation is such a blessing. We are so proud to be an ELCA Lutheran School - I hope you are proud of our ministry too! Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Linda Chambers, Director

Celebrating Each Other



3/06 Ken Barnard
3/12 Sandy Cook—Carter
3/13 Peter Weingartner
3/17 Ruth Goehler
3/19 Irene Higgs
3/23 Richard Turk
3/25 Corrine Voparil
3/31 Linda Chambers
John Mampe



3/02 Hank & Tiffany Haley
3/10 Bill & Bette MacDowell

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month and your name is not listed, please contact the church office.

L4 Lutheran Ladies

Please plan on joining us for lunch on the last Thursday of each month at The Red Lobster at noon. There is a signup sheet in the church narthex, or you may call me at (626) 536 4965. Also, review the information poster board for upcoming events.

Tickets for The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee Musical at Lewis Theatre on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at 2:00 pm are still available. If you would like to join us, please call me at 626-536-4965. Tickets are \$20 each.

L4 Ladies will be collecting diapers, personal hygiene items, and Easter gifts for girls living at The St. Gerard Campus. Please check your emails and Sunday Bulletin for details.

Saturday, May 7, 2022, L4 Ladies are hosting a Mother's Day Tea in Hartman Hall. Save the date to join us for a lovely tribute to all the ladies, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, and aunts that have brought us joy—more details to follow. ~Bonnie Tremayne

Notes from the Minister of Music

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. Services will be held at noon and 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays during Lent will include the following:

Choir Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Light Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer 6:30 p.m.

Movie "The Chosen" with discussion from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 6th will be the kickoff to Lutheran Schools Week. Chapel School kids will sing during the 10:30 worship service and we will be welcoming the Chapel School families!

We need Communion Assistants at both services. The Altar Guild will have everything set up. All you would have to do is hold the wine during communion. If you can help, please contact either me or Bonnie Frazer.

Thank you to all who helped with the Celebration of Life for Eleanor Loseke. Eleanor was such a gift to all of us; she was an inspiration and brought joy to so many. It's heart-breaking to say good-bye, but what a life well-lived... Rest in peace, dear friend.

Peace,

Barb Mattingly

904-826-7997 / barbaramattingly@gmail.com





Mike Kappelmann

Johnny Kelly

Joseph Flores

Chad Kutlik

Eddie Davis

Reginald Best

Justin Rae

Sara Fogle

Kyle Melnick

Tyler Woodard

Maghan Blanton

Cody Holms

Courtney Kelly

Carl Seim

Molly Prins

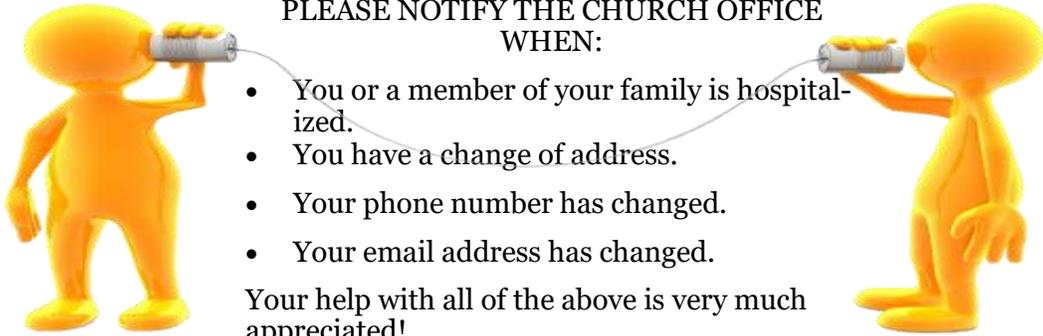
Alex Carames

Chase Warner

Dylan Harris



Just a reminder— the Church’s ongoing practice is that anyone wanting to use the hall, pavilion or any other room for an activity should please first check the calendar for open dates and then contact the church office to schedule your activity to avoid any conflicts. The calendar is printed in every SteepleTalk, is posted and updated regularly on the website and events are noted in the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!



PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE WHEN:

- You or a member of your family is hospitalized.
- You have a change of address.
- Your phone number has changed.
- Your email address has changed.

Your help with all of the above is very much appreciated!

The second collection *should not replace* your regular giving in the first collection. It is only for the funds chosen. Additionally, if you place money in the second collection for a fund other than the one being collected that money will be placed in the general account.



Because all money collected on Sundays (other than the 2nd and 5th Sunday) goes into the general account, if you would like to give to a fund *other than* the fund chosen, please be sure (a) it’s an approved fund and (b) to bring or mail the check into the church office with the name of the approved fund noted on the check and your envelope number. *Do not place it in the giving basket or it will be placed in the general account.*

Take time. Study God's Word. It will change you. Gail Davis

- Pastor’s Bible study Fridays at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- We have a Lutheran basics adult class called “Faith//Talking!” between services every Sunday morning at 9:15. We are looking at the Gospel of Mark as Jesus’ call to justice and service.

Pastor Dow is our presenter and moderates our lively discussions. Please join us!

Please contact the church office at 904-797-4377 if you have any questions about joining a study. We’d love to have



Hope and Deliverance

Hope and Deliverance Ministries is requesting the assistance of the members, leaders, faculty and staff of Memorial Lutheran Church. This year we celebrate 20 years of Outreach Ministry. Each month a bin will be located in the Narthex in collection of specific items for the month.

We will collect the items after each Sunday Service.

For the month of March,
we will begin collecting the following:

Men and Women New Unused Shoes:

Men Sizes: 9 and up

Work Boots and/or Tennis Shoes

Women Sizes: 8 and up

Work Boots and/or Tennis Shoes



Sunday Morning Class: Faith/Talking -- What's Next?

As you read this the Sunday Morning class, taught by Pastor Dow, will have concluded our study of the book "*Lutheran Toolkit*," by Ken Sundet Jones. This book presented the Lutheran faith via thoughts about the Augsburg Confession, one of our church's foundational writings. Discussion was spirited.

So, what's next? The class has chosen to proceed with a book study once again. This time the book is titled "*A Path Strewn With Sinners, A Devotional Study of Mark's Gospel and His Race to the Cross*." The author is Dr. Wade Johnston, assistant professor of theology at Wisconsin Lutheran College with a decade of prior experience as a parish pastor in Saginaw, Michigan.

Johnston writes about Mark's gospel in a gentle, incisive, and exciting way. Here's a review of his book: "... when you pay special attention to the people we meet along the way, those who are healed, consoled, restored, set free, as well as the way in which Jesus carries out these tasks, Mark's Gospel delivers an inescapable, life-changing gospel-filled punch."

Join us as we join Jesus in the Gospel of Mark in his "Race to the Cross" Sundays at 9:15 in the Conference Room.



Ladies night out is a great way to meet the women of MLC and enjoy good food and fellowship. The ladies meet the last Monday of each month at 6:00 for dinner. Please watch the Sunday bulletin or look on our website (memoriallutheranchurch.net) for details.

PLEASE NOTE:

Names on the congregation prayer list are removed each month unless the church office is notified they should remain.

If you see a name on either list (congregation or military) that should not be there, please let the church office know that as well. Thank you for your help in keeping these lists accurate.



April Gunness
Raul Baldrich
Cheryl Huffman
Steve Stephens
Richard Sorentino
Bob Gavilo
Ken & Nancy Barnard
Joyce Jones
Allysn Edginton
Paul Mattingly
Barbara Radef
Roland Hecht
Lucie Coyle
Lisa Nickel
Collin Kirk
Patty Kuykendall
Marissa Zagorski
Donna Anderson
Josephine Lenhart
Kitty Shay
Peter Morin
Family of W. Leviska
John Delaney
David Denzine
Mr. & Mrs. R. Turk
Yvonne Schimmel
Trevor Rees
Mark Flamino
Arlene Sanders
Betty & Janet
Donna King
Barbara Ryder
Jon Murphy
Mitchell MacCartney
Pr. J. McGlocking
Tim Goxem

March 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 Orchid Society 5 to 9:30 p.m	2 Ash Wednesday Services at 12 p.m. and 7p.m. Choir 6 p.m.	3 AA/ACA 6:30-9 p.m.	4 Bible Study 10.a.m AA Mens 6-8 p.m.	5
6 Choir -7:30-930 Worship 8 & 10:30 Adult Class 9:15 Brunch hosted by Chapel School	7	8 BBSS 6 p.m.— Conference room	9 Choir 5:30 p.m. Youth Rocks 4:30 p.m. Light Dinner 6:00 Holden Evening Prayer Worship 6:30 Movie and discussion “The Chosen,” 7 p.m.	10 AA/ACA 6:30-9 p.m.	11 Bible Study 10.a.m AA Mens 6-8 p.m.	12 Wedding
Lutheran Schools Week						
13 Choir -7:30-930 Worship 8 & 10:30 Adult Class 9:15	14 Council Meet- ing 6 p.m.	15 BBSS 6 p.m.— Conference room	16 Choir 5:30 p.m. Light Dinner 6:pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship 6:30 Movie and discussion “The Chosen,” 7 p.m	17 AA/ACA 6:30-9 p.m. 	18 Bible Study 10.a.m AA Mens 6-8 n.	19
20 Choir -7:30-930 Worship 8 & 10:30 Adult Class 9:15	21 Steeple Talk Deadline	22 BBSS 6 p.m.— Conference room	23 Choir 5:30 p.m. Light Dinner 6:00 Holden Evening Prayer Worship 6:30 Movie and discussion “The Chosen,” 7 p.M	24 AA/ACA 6:30-9 p.m. L4 Lunch 12 p.m.	25 Bible Study 10.a.m AA Mens 6-8 p.m.	26
27 Choir -7:30-930 Worship 8 & 10:30 Adult Class 9:15	28	29 BBSS 6 p.m.— Conference room	30 Choir 5:30 p.m. Youth Rocks 4:30 p.m. Light Dinner 6:00 olden Evening Prayer Worship 6:30 Movie and discus- sion “The Chosen,” 77 p.m.	31 AA/ACA 6:30-9 p.m.		

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Web: www.LutheranChapelSchool.com

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Minister of Music: Barbara Mattingly

Chapel School & Family Ministry

Director: Linda Chambers

Sexton: Barbara Howerton

Parish Administrator: Debi Wood

Administrative Assistant: Nancy Murphy

Upcoming DEADLINES

April Steeple Talk Newsletter Deadline- March 21 2022.

If you would like to submit an article or other information for inclusion in the newsletter please send it to mlcstaug@gmail.com no later than the deadline date. Please also submit Worship Assistants: Readers, Altar Guild, Greeters, etc. by the deadline. Information or Articles arriving after the deadline will not be included.

Information for inclusion in the **Sunday bulletin** is due by close of business each Tuesday. Please send any announcements or other information you wish to put in the bulletin via email to: **mlcstaug@gmail.com** by Tuesday of each week. If you have any questions, please contact Debi in the Church office.

STEEPLE TALK BY EMAIL

If you are interested in receiving Steeple Talk by email, please contact the Church Office at 904-797-4377 with your e-mail address and you will be placed on the email list. To those who wish to continue to have a printed copy, they will be available on the last Sunday of every month in the Narthex.

